



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2020

Press Contact

Richard Motta

340-474-2399

[www.vi.gov](http://www.vi.gov)

[richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov](mailto:richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov)

## **Government Agencies Change Operations In Response to COVID-19 Outbreak**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—In an effort to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID19, and in adherence to guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), several departments and agencies of the Government of the Virgin Islands have implemented steps to minimize person-to-person contact at their offices.

As of Monday, March 23, 2020, departments and agencies modifying the operations include:

### **VI Department of Justice**

Department of Justice facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix are closed to the public and will not conduct person-to-person services until further notice. Department of Justice's four facilities that will be closed to the public include the Office of the Attorney General. Services to be provided electronically or telephonically include administrative claims and questions regarding pending criminal cases.

The Sex Offender Registry, a division of the V.I. Department of Justice, will also be closed to the public; however, registration requirements remain in place. Sex offenders who are residing, employed, or attending school in the Territory and need to register or update their information must do so telephonically or via email. <https://usvidoj.codemeta.com/>.

### **Virgin Islands Fire Service**

The Virgin Islands Fire Service's Prevention and Administrative Offices in both districts will have limited hours of operation and will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays only. The reduced hours will remain in effect until further notice. Businesses that have fire certificates that have expired or will expire during the current state of emergency

will be given a 60-day extension. The Fire Service's emergency response operations will remain uninterrupted.

### **Office of Collective Bargaining**

The Office of Collective Bargaining will be closed, beginning Tuesday, March 24, until April 6. Calls may be made from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to 340-774-6450 or 340-713-0735.

### **VI Waste Management Authority**

All bid packages should be submitted electronically to the Authority, and all open solicitations in response to the Waste Management Authority's recent projects opened for bid will be accepted via email only. The solicitations shall adhere to the previously established date and time as indicated on the respective advertisement. Please forward the completed document to [sdavid@viwma.org](mailto:sdavid@viwma.org) and/or [jthomas-blyden@viwma.org](mailto:jthomas-blyden@viwma.org), or visit [www.viwma.org](http://www.viwma.org).

### **VI Department of Labor**

The VI Department of Labor will be open to the public; however, the following limits will be set for occupancy of common areas:

- There is a maximum capacity limit set to minimize the number of clients in the lobby at a time.
- There is a maximum capacity of the resource rooms vary by district at this time. For more information on capacity detail call the Department before visiting in person.

There will also be limits set to available services, outside of Unemployment Insurance. If possible, clients are encouraged to use the website to obtain information and find resources. Please call ahead before visiting the Labor offices to find out the volume of clients to help maintaining social distancing. Requests for various services will require consideration after the State of Emergency social distancing recommendations expire on April 6, 2020. [www.vidol.gov](http://www.vidol.gov).

### **VI Energy Office**

All individuals with applications for the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Financial Incentive Program are required to submit them by email, fax or mail service until further notice. The VIEO has waived the 30-day application deadline so that customers who purchase qualifying items can capitalize on these rebates, which includes items purchased as of March 1, 2020. For more information visit: [www.facebook.com/VirginIslandsEnergyOffice](https://www.facebook.com/VirginIslandsEnergyOffice).

### **Department of Public Works**

In-person interactions are limited in offices territory-wide, and in-person complaint submissions are suspended until further notice. Complaints will continue to be accepted by telephone, email and online. Cemetery office guests will be limited to two guests per visit. For more information visit [www.Dpw.vi.gov](http://www.Dpw.vi.gov).

### **Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs**

The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs (DLCA) is asking the public to utilize department's online website at [www.dlca.vi.gov](http://www.dlca.vi.gov) for business license renewals or new business license applications, to schedule appointments and to file consumer complaints online.

### **Department of Finance**

The Department of Finance is conducting all business electronically whenever possible. For more information visit [www.dof.vi.gov](http://www.dof.vi.gov).

### **Department of Tourism**

The Department of Tourism is providing updates to visitors to the US Virgin Islands at [www.usviupdate.com](http://www.usviupdate.com).

### **VI Lottery**

The VI Lottery our offices in both Districts will allow five customers into the lobby at a time. Dealers are asked to provide requested ticket numbers in advance to avoid line delays and ensure expedient service. Dealers will be provided with their listings to make those selections once requested in advance. On-site St. John sales are be postponed until further notice. For more information, call 340-774-2502 on St. Thomas or 340-778-6360 on St. Croix or visit [www.winvilottery.com](http://www.winvilottery.com).

### **Department of Human Services**

The VI Department of Human Services Head Start Program has closed classrooms territory-wide. VIDHS staff are to report to work as normally scheduled.

### **Department of Education**

All public schools are closed through April 14. The Department of Education has announced cancellation of several activities including distribution of progress reports and postponement of the Smart Balanced tests until fall 2020. For more information visit [www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi).

### **WAPA**

Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority customer service offices territory-wide will offer only limited service to walk-in visitors. All business transactions should be conducted either online or via telephone until further notice.

Customer Service offices can be reached by calling 340-774-3552 or 340-773-2250 and selecting option 5. For more information visit [www.viwapa.vi](http://www.viwapa.vi).

### **Bureau of Corrections**

In-person visitations at all correctional facilities are suspended, and all volunteer programs, work details and furloughs also are suspended until further notice. For more information visit [www.boc.vi.gov](http://www.boc.vi.gov).

**Judicial Branch of the US Virgin Islands**

All in-person proceedings scheduled to commence on or before April 1, 2020, before any judicial officer in any Judicial Branch facility are postponed, and no new proceedings will be scheduled. The only exception to the suspension of in-person proceedings are Advice of Rights and Stalking and Domestic Violence matters, which will continue to be heard in-person subject to limitations set by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Advice of Rights will only take place at 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. For more information, contact: Tel: 340-774-2237, Fax: 340-774-2258 or TTY: 340-693-4118.

**33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature**

All hearings and meetings in both districts have been postponed, and the Legislature is restricting visitation to its facilities, which are closed to members of the public.

####